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Hearings Begin on Out-of-State Waste Legislation Sen. Gilbert Sponsors Bill in Legislative Package

LANSING – State Sen. Jud Gilbert (R-Algonac) announced today that hearings have begun on a package of bills regarding out-of-state waste. Gilbert is a co-sponsor of one of the bills in the legislative package.

The bill package would provide for enacting new landfill bans and giving new authority to the DEQ Director to restrict waste shipments in the event of a public health or environmental threat. The bills will also step up inspections and penalties for those who violate the state’s waste management laws.

Also included in the package are resolutions to memorialize Congress to enact legislation to give states the authority to ban out-of-state waste.

“While the legislature can’t currently impose an all out ban on these shipments, we can put the heat on Congress to give individual states this authority,” Gilbert said. “With these bills, we’ll also give our state and local authorities more ability to inspect what’s coming in and keep hazardous materials out.”

The Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee heard a presentation given by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) last week and continued to hear more public testimony Tuesday during their committee meeting in Lansing. The committee expects to vote on the legislation next week.